

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 30, 2004

MPDC CLOSES TRIPLE HOMICIDE AT COLONEL BROOKS' TAVERN; THREE SUSPECTS ARRESTED, ONE IS FOUND DEAD

The MPDC, assisted by other law enforcement agencies in the region, has closed one of DC's most vicious and troubling open murder cases—the triple homicide that occurred inside the Colonel Brooks' Tavern in Northeast on April 6, 2003. Early that morning, three employees of the restaurant were preparing for Palm Sunday brunch when masked intruders entered the establishment, led the employees into a walk-in freezer and shot them dead, before fleeing with cash. Based on information developed during the nine-month investigation, members of the MPDC and other agencies arrested three suspects in separate operations over the past week. A fourth suspect—an ex-employee of Colonel Brooks'—was located in a home in Colonial Heights, Va., in the Richmond area, dead from apparent self-inflicted injuries. The triple homicide at the popular Northeast restaurant shocked the Brookland and Catholic University communities. In announcing the first two arrests, Mayor Williams said, "My hat goes off to Chief Ramsey and the investigators who solved this crime, and my heart goes out to the families of the victims." Chief Ramsey praised the MPDC units that participated in the investigation—the Violent Crimes Branch, Major Case Squad, Forensic Science Services Division, Warrant Squad, Fifth District and Office of Professional Responsibility – and he thanked the other agencies that assisted during the investigation and arrests—Baltimore City Police, Baltimore Homicide Unit, FBI's Washington Field Office, Prince George's County Police, US Marshals Service, US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and Colonial Heights Police.

- ① Read the news releases on this case at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2552>
- ① The MPDC closed another high-profile homicide this past week – the January 23 execution of 14-year-old Jahkema Hansen inside a home in the Sursum Corda area of Northwest. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2543>
- ① The MPDC continues to offer a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any unsolved homicide case in DC. To view some of DC's Most Wanted, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtml>

MPDC, ABRA TARGETING UNDERAGE DRINKING

With support from a federal grant, the MPDC and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) are once again stepping up efforts to reduce and prevent the serious problem of underage drinking. The two agencies recently began compliance operations at Class C and Class D establishments in DC—essentially restaurants and taverns that serve alcohol on their premises. During these compliance operations, the MPDC and ABRA are using specially trained minors to patronize these establishments and attempt to purchase alcohol, even though they are younger than 21. Establishments violating the underage drinking laws face stiff penalties, including the possibility of having their liquor licenses suspended or even revoked. The MPDC and ABRA have previously conducted compliance checks at Class A and B establishments, and the agencies have offered free training to merchants to help them sell and serve alcohol responsibly. The latest compliance operations are funded through an Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws grant awarded by the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

- ① For more information about underage drinking enforcement, as well as details on DC's liquor licensing regulations, visit the ABRA website at:
<http://abra.dc.gov>
- ① DC law takes a "zero tolerance" approach to underage drinking and driving. Details at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duipenalties.shtml>

MPDC ISSUES WARNING: DESIGNER JACKETS POSSIBLY TARGETED DURING STREET ROBBERIES

The MPDC is investigating the possibility that designer-named jackets and coats are being targeted for theft during street robberies. Since November 1, 2003, there have been some 78 street robberies throughout the city in which jackets or coats were taken, among other items, during the robbery. Of those 78 cases, approximately 18 involved the theft of a victim's jacket or coat only. Among the brand-name jackets and coats taken during these robberies were North Face, Eddie Bauer, Old Navy and others. Police advise citizens to mark their items with their name or other identifier in such a way that the marking cannot be removed.

FOCUS ON...THE 3-1-1 NON-EMERGENCY SYSTEM

Implemented three years ago in DC, 3-1-1 is a toll-free number that allows residents and visitors to request police services in non-emergency situations. Because it is easy to use and easy to remember, 3-1-1 can help the MPDC improve its services to the community by off-loading non-emergency calls from 9-1-1, so that 9-1-1 can then be reserved for true police, fire and medical emergencies. While public use of 3-1-1 has grown over the years, there are still many instances in which individuals are calling 9-1-1—and not 3-1-1—for non-emergency situations. People are reminded to call 3-1-1 to report situations that are not serious, not life-threatening or not currently in progress. A typical 3-1-1 call would be a property crime that is no longer in progress and the offender is not on the scene—crimes such as vandalism, thefts, graffiti, stolen autos and garage burglaries. Individuals should continue to call 9-1-1 to report life-threatening situations, any crimes that are in progress and all serious or violent offenses, even if the offender is no longer on the scene.

NEWS & NOTES

New Public Safety Communications Director. Mayor Williams has announced the appointment of Michael Latessa as Director of DC's Public Safety Communications Center. The PSCC is the 9-1-1/3-1-1 operations center for the MPDC and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Latessa begins work on February 9. Read the news release at <http://www.dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=562&mon=200401>.

Coaches Against Gun Violence. Because of this past week's snowstorm, the kickoff event for this gun violence prevention program during the high school basketball season had to be postponed. The next "Coaches" event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, at 7 pm at Roosevelt Senior High School in Northwest. For details on the program, go to http://www.allianceforjustice.org/student/against_violence/index.html.

December Court Reports Now Available. Each month, the US Attorney's Office Community Prosecution Team publishes summary information about recent court cases in each of the seven police districts. View the December 2003 court reports (as well as past reports) at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/courtrpts/courtrpts.shtm>.

PSA Restructuring Hearing. DC Council Judiciary Committee Chair Kathy Patterson has scheduled a hearing on the MPDC's Police Service Area (PSA) Restructuring plan for Tuesday, February 24, at 10 am in Room 412 of the Wilson Building. The plan, which reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 43, is designed to improve police services in DC neighborhoods and enhance public involvement in community policing. For more information, including maps of the proposed PSAs and police districts, visit: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtm.

Neighborhood Citizen Summits. As a follow up to last fall's Citizen Summit III, Mayor Williams will be holding a series of "Neighborhood Citizen Summit" in each of DC's eight wards during February. For dates, times and locations, visit <http://neighborhoodaction.dc.gov/neighborhoodaction/site/default.asp>.

① This will assist the police in returning the item to its rightful owner if it is recovered. Read the news release at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2551>

① The MPDC offers a number of "street smart" safety tips on how to guard against robbery and assault: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/robbassault.shtm>

① For complete information about when and how to use the 3-1-1 non-emergency system, visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/311.shtm>

① Practically all home, business, cellular and pay phones have been connected with the toll-free 3-1-1 number. However, the MPDC is interested in learning of any callers having trouble connecting with 3-1-1. If you cannot get through using 3-1-1, call (202) 737-4404 to report your non-emergency, and give the call-taker information about the location and service provider of the phone that could not reach 3-1-1.

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 1/30/04)

- 2004: 23
- 2003: 15
- % Change: +53.3%

Adult Arrests (week end. 1/24/04)

- Total: 697
- Drugs: 133
- Homicide: 2
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 18
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17

Firearm Recoveries (as of 1/27/04)

- January: 177
- 2003 Total: 1,982

Traffic Fatalities (as of 1/30/04)

- 2004: 5
- 2003: 3
- % Change: 66.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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